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Docket No. 1232-4684

COMMONWEALTH DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL
DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION

As a below name inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

INFORMATON PROVIDING SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION
ABOUT PROCUREMENT

the specification of which

- a. [] is attached hereto
- b. [x] was filed on February 12, 2001 as application Serial No. 09/781,889 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STATE

- c. [] was described and claimed in International Application No. _____ filed on _____ and as amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby specify the following as the correspondence address to which all communications about this application are to be directed:

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P
345 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10154

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: JOSEPH A. CALVARUSO, ESQ.
(212) 758-4800

[x] I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119(a)-(d) or under § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or under § 365(a) of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the U.S. listed below and also have identified below such foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or such PCT international application(s) filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date within twelve (12) months before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

[x] The attached 35 U.S.C. § 119 claim for priority for the application(s) listed below forms a part of this declaration.

<u>Country/PCT</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Date of filing (day, month, yr)</u>	<u>Date of Issue (day, month, yr)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
JAPAN	2000-041349	15 February 2000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
JAPAN	2000-041350	15 February 2000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
JAPAN	2000-041359	15 February 2000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

[] I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any U.S. provisional application(s) listed below.

Provisional Application No.

Date of Filing (day, month, yr)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART
OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION(S) (DESIGNATING THE U.S.)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 120 of any United States application(s) or under § 365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the U.S. listed below.

<u>US/PCT Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status (patented, pending, abandoned)/ U.S. application no. assigned (For PCT)</u>

[] In this continuation-in-part application, insofar as the subject matter of any of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the above listed prior United States or PCT international application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or Imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: John A. Diaz (Reg. No. 19,550), John C. Vassil (Reg. No. 19,098), Alfred P. Ewert (Reg. No. 19,887), David H. Pfeffer, P.C. (Reg. No. 19,825), Harry C. Marcus (Reg. No. 22,390), Robert E. Paulson (Reg. No. 21,046), Stephen R. Smith (Reg. No. 22,615), Kurt E. Richter (Reg. No. 24,052), J. Robert Dailey (Reg. No. 27,434), Eugene Moroz (Reg. No. 25,237), John F. Sweeney (Reg. No. 27,471), Arnold I. Rady (Reg. No. 26,601), Christopher A. Hughes (Reg. No. 26,914), William S. Feiler (Reg. No. 26,728), Joseph A. Calvaruso (Reg. No. 28,287), James W. Gould (Reg. No. 28,859), Richard C. Komson (Reg. No. 27,913), Israel

Blum (Reg. No. 26,710), Bartholomew Verdirame (Reg. No. 28,483), Maria C.H. Lin (reg. No. 29,323), Joseph A. DeGirolamo (Reg. No. 28,595), Michael A. Nicodema (Reg. No. 33,199), Michael P. Dougherty (Reg. No. 32,730), Seth J. Atlas (Reg. No. 32,454), Andrew M. Riddles (Reg. No. 31,657), Bruce D. DeRenzi (Reg. No. 33,676), Michael M. Murray (Reg. No. 32,537) and Mark J. Abate (Reg. No. 32,527); Alfred L. Haffner, Jr. (Reg. No. 18,919), Harold Haidt (Reg. No. 17,509), John T. Gallagher (Reg. No. 35,516), Steven F. Meyer (Reg. No. 35,613); Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld (Reg. No. 33,285), Edward A. Pennington (Reg. No. 32,588), Michael S. Marcus (Reg. No. 31,727) and John E. Hoel (Reg. No. 26,279, of Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P., whose address is: 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10154.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys and/or agents named hereinabove to accept and follow instructions from

as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and/or agents and me. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken I will so notify the U.S. attorneys and/or agents hereinabove.

Full name of sole or first inventor SADAHICO YAMAOKA

Inventor's signature* Sada hiko Yamaoka
Residence 966-2, Oaza Shimizuko, Fujishiro-machi, Kita Soma-gun, Ibaraki-ken, Japan date April 21. 2001

Citizenship Japan

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30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Full name of second joint inventor, if any SHUNKICHI KANEKO

Inventor's signature* Shunkichi Kaneko
Residence 1634-2-509, Oaza Togashira, Toride-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan date April 21. 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha
30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

ATTACHED IS ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNATURE BY THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT INVENTORS FORM.

* Before signing this declaration, each person signing must:

1. Review the declaration and verify the correctness of all information therein; and
2. Review the specification and the claims, including any amendments made to the claims.

After the declaration is signed, the specification and claims are not to be altered.

Docket No. _____



ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION
MAY 21 2001 AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNATURE
BY THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT INVENTORS

Full name of third joint inventor, if any OSAMU UEDA

Inventor's signature* Osamu Ueda

Residence 7-47, Sugekitaura 5-chome, Tama-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Japan date April 24, 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address 7-47, Sugekitaura 5-chome, Tama-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any SADAO ITO

Inventor's signature* Sadao Ito

Residence 8-12, Baraki 3-chome, Ishioka-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan date April 19, 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha 30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any HIROAKI WAKAMATSU

Inventor's signature* Hiroaki Wakamatsu

Residence 5-32, Tsukushino 3-chome, Machida-shi, Tokyo, Japan date April 25, 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha 30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any ATSUSHI OKADA

Inventor's signature* Atsushi Okada

Residence 44-4-604, Fuda 3-chome, Chofu-shi, Tokyo, Japan date April 19, 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha 30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Full name of seventh joint inventor, if any JUNICHI MOTOYOSHI

Inventor's signature* Junichi Motoyoshi

Residence 5-1-202, Kamadai-cho, Hodogaya-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan date April 25, 2001

Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha 30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Docket No. _____

ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION
 AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNATURE
BY THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT INVENTORS

Full name of eighth joint inventor, if any YOSHIHIDE NANBUInventor's signature* Yoshihide NanbuResidence 30-3-608, Koyamadai 1-chome, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo, Japandate Apr. 9th, 2001Citizenship JapanPost Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, JapanFull name of ninth joint inventor, if any TAKANORI YOKOIInventor's signature* Takanori YokoiResidence 35-1-308, Shimomaruko 2-chome, Ohta-ku,
Tokyo, Japandate May 8th, 2001Citizenship JapanPost Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, JapanFull name of tenth joint inventor, if any NAKA ITOInventor's signature* Naka ItoResidence 366-7-102, Oaza Minami Kitsuki, Kitsuki-shi,
Oita-ken, Japandate April 16, 2001Citizenship JapanPost Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, JapanFull name of eleventh joint inventor, if any MITSUO SUITAInventor's signature* Mitsuo SaitaResidence 16-2, Ebisu Nishi 2-chome, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo, Japandate May 14, 2001Citizenship JapanPost Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, JapanFull name of twelfth joint inventor, if any ATSUSHI MATSUNAWAInventor's signature* Atsushi MatsunawaResidence 12-20-301, Shimomaruko 1-chome, Ohta-ku,
Tokyo, Japandate May 14, 2001Citizenship JapanPost Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

To the inventor(s):

The following are cited in or pertinent to the declaration attached to the accompanying application:

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, § 1.56

Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affect with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

and

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application,
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 101

Inventions patentable

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Title 35 U.S. Code § 102

Conditions for patentability; novelty and loss of right to patent

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent,

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States, or

- (c) he has abandoned the invention, or
- (d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States, or
- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or
- (f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented, or
- (g) before the applicant's invention thereof the invention was made in this country by another had not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed it. In determining priority of invention there shall be considered not only the respective dates of conception and reduction to practice of the invention, but also the reasonable diligence of one who was first to conceive and last to reduce to practice, from a time prior to conception by the other ...

Title 35, U.S. Code § 103

Conditions for patentability; non-obvious subject matter

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 112 (in part)

Specification

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms also enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is mostly nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 119

Benefit of earlier filing date in foreign country; right of priority

An application for patent for an invention filed in this country by any person who has, or whose legal representatives or assigns have, previously regularly filed an application for a patent for the same invention in a foreign country which affords similar privileges in the case of applications filed in the United States or to citizens of the United States, shall have the same effect as the same application would have if filed in this country on the date on which the application for patent for the same invention was first filed in such foreign country, if the application in this country is filed within twelve months from the earliest date on which such

foreign application was filed; but no patent shall be granted on any application for patent for an invention which had been patented or described in a printed publication in any country more than one year before the date of the actual filing of the application in this country, or which had been in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to such filing.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 120

Benefit or earlier filing date in the United States

An application for patent for an invention disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title in an application previously filed in the United States, or as provided by section 363 of this title, which is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application shall have the same effect, as to such invention, as though filed on the date of the prior application, if filed before the patenting or abandonment of or termination of proceedings on the first application or an application similarly entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the first application and if it contains or is amended to contain a specific reference to the earlier filed application.

Please read carefully before signing the Declaration attached to the accompanying Application.

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P.

FORM:COMB-DEC.NY
Rev. 5/21/98